



High school track

Glenn’s Tokoly adjusting



Pilot News

Weather outlook

Tuesday

High 64, Low 52

Wednesday

High 62, Low 51

Thursday

High 69, Low 55

Local news and weather at www.thepilotnews.com

ALICE in FUND-erland

Going down the rabbit hole of numbers

By JAMIE FLEURY
STAFF WRITER

MARSHALL COUNTY — Who is ALICE? ALICE is an acronym that stands for Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed. Those individuals and households earn more than the federal poverty level but less than the “basic cost of living” for their county. This term is referred to by the United Way as the ALICE threshold to describe those families living “pay check to pay check”.

The shelter in place that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic thrust countless families into unprecedented poverty. Not only were they teetering from paycheck to paycheck, but many who were unemployed found themselves waiting weeks for unemployment payments to start, and they had lost health insurance.

As stated on marshallcountyuw.org, “ALICE workers are essential to the fabric of our society. ALICE works in jobs that are integral to our communities, from child care educators and home health aides to mechanics - all workers we rely on every day. The future success of our communities is directly tied to the financial stability of ALICE households. When ALICE suffers and is forced to make difficult choices, we all face serious consequences.”

The Bread of Life Food Pantry and the Marshall County Neighborhood Center saw a surge in families

Marshall County, 2016		
Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Argos Town	667	47%
Bourbon Town	690	48%
Bourbon Township	1,160	42%
Bremen Town	1,761	49%
Center Township	5,741	46%
Culver Town	520	47%
German Township	2,969	40%
Green Township	319	13%
La Paz Town	207	37%
North Township	1,594	32%
Plymouth City	3,703	57%
Polk Township	1,148	41%
Tippecanoe Township	483	35%
Union Township	1,179	38%
Walnut Township	1,038	44%
West Township	1,462	29%

PHOTO PROVIDED
Image taken from 2018 United Way ALICE Report showing the percentages of families whose household incomes fall within the ALICE threshold or lower in the towns, townships, and cities across Marshall County.

quences.”
The Bread of Life Food Pantry and the Marshall County Neighborhood Center saw a surge in families

See ALICE A3

Household Survival Budget, Marshall County		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
Monthly Costs		
Housing	\$513	\$688
Child Care	\$-	\$825
Food	\$158	\$525
Transportation	\$349	\$697
Health Care	\$214	\$800
Technology	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$152	\$396
Taxes	\$231	\$350
Monthly Total	\$1,672	\$4,356
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$20,064	\$52,272
Hourly Wage	\$10.03	\$26.14

IPHOTO PROVIDED
Image taken from 2018 United Way ALICE Report showing the Household Survival Budget necessary for Marshall County families.

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Argos Community Schools announce graduation information and end of year parade

CONTENT PROVIDED

ARGOS — Argos Community Schools will hold graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2020 on Sunday, July 12 at 2 p.m. The school will be consulting with area and state health departments during the time leading up to the graduation to determine any restrictions limiting the number of guests in attendance, the location of the event, seating procedures, and other general procedures.

The 2019-2020 school year is ending in a way that Ned Speicher, superintendent of Argos Community Schools, could never have imagined at the beginning of the school year. Having school with social distancing and e-Learning for more than the last two months has been a challenge. Argos Dragons,

See Argos A2



PHOTO PROVIDED
Northern Indiana Foodbank recently held a drive-through food distribution at the Bremen Fire Department.

Marshall County Industries step up

CONTENT PROVIDED

MARSHALL COUNTY—The idea of essential services has taken on a different meaning for many Marshall County residents during the coronavirus pandemic. Positions that were once considered entry level are now referred to as essential, such as grocery and food service employees.

The idea of essential business also encompasses a wide range of manufacturing that continued to produce essential products during the stay-at-home orders. Additionally, several manufacturers stepped up and changed part of their production facilities to help manufacture much needed medical related supplies.

But industry efforts have not stopped there. Marshall County Economic Development

Corporation has joined with the Marshall County Crossroads team to raise funds for the Fund the Essentials campaign within the industrial businesses in Marshall County.

“Many of our industry leaders in Marshall County recognize the need for additional help during these unprecedented times,” said Jerry Chavez, President/CEO of MCEDC. “Leaders and companies like Digger Graber (Founder-Owner) - Digger Specialties, Inc., Greg Pearson (CEO) - Pretzels, Inc., Leonard Isban (CEO-Founder) – American Containers, Inc., Jamie Visker (CEO) - Winona Building Products, and Scott Sivan (Managing Partner) - River Gate South, have all stepped up to help at the Pace Setters level of funding.”

Nearly \$50,000 has been raised combining

See Industries A3

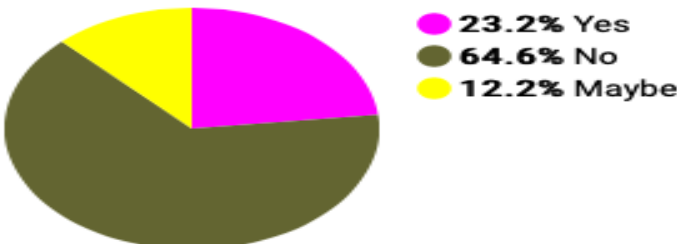


PHOTO COURTESY MCEDC
NISCO in Bremen manufactured isolation gowns that can be worn by first responders to protect from the coronavirus. Boxes of gowns were delivered to the Plymouth Fire Department and distributed throughout the county to first responders.

Poll results

Poll: Will you be dining-in at a restaurant this week?

Restaurants, starting Monday, May 11, will be allowed to open up for dine-in service. They may do so with 50% seating capacity and following specific guidelines from county and state health departments. Will you be visiting your favorite restaurant for dine-in this week?



We are stronger together

BUY ANY NEW OR USED VEHICLE IN MAY AND WE WILL DONATE \$100 TO A LOCAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OF YOUR CHOICE

RANGING FROM EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE TO FEEDING THE HUNGRY. SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY ONE CAR AT A TIME.

We will donate \$100 for every new or used vehicle sold. Customer must chose organization at time of sale. Donation cannot be split. Full list of non-for-profit or charitable organizations available. Expires 05/31/2020.



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Industries, cont. from front

the above-mentioned Pace Setters and contributions from Zentis, acpi, NIPSCO, and Joe and Jennifer Martin of Country Auto to the effort. Many others have indicated their interest to participate and after internal discussions a final amount will be determined later. The fund-raising efforts of MCEDC will continue through the month of May as many of the industrial organizations continue to recover and begin bringing production back.

“Digger” Graber, Owner of Digger Specialties said of their contribution, “We are thankful that as an employer of many Marshall County residents we are able to also help those who are in need in Marshall County whom we do not employ.”

Likewise, “We are happy to be in a position to offer help,” expressed Leonard Isban, CEO of American Container.

“As a food company, our workers at Pretzels, Inc. have played an essential role in keeping the food supply chain operational,” explained Greg Pearson CEO of Pretzels, Inc. “I am proud of their hard work during this crisis. We are also proud to help support other members of the community who have been negatively impacted by this outbreak with a contribution to the Fund the Essentials campaign. The City of Plymouth and Marshall County have been great places to grow our business, and we want to help our community manage through these unprecedented times.”

Marshall County has been fortunate and has a truly diverse industrial make up. Manufacturers of food, medical supplies, automotive, pack-

aging, agriculture machinery and more all call Marshall County home. This diverse make-up has helped to lessen the effects of boom and bust cycles that some regions struggle with. This same diversity will help Marshall County rebound from the effects of the COVID-19 shutdown.

“We are committed to the City of Plymouth and Marshall County, as they likewise have made a financial commitment to River Gate South development. We also believe in helping those that are financially affected by COVID-19 through no fault of their own and want to join business leaders as a Pace Setter in the Fund the Essentials campaign,” said Scott Sivan Managing Partner of InSite Development. “I’m proud to contribute to the hard-working people who have suffered so much during this crisis. My heart goes out to everyone.”

When the entire economy is shut off to mitigate the effects of a pandemic, it effects every aspect of industry. Even though several industries have continued to operate through the stay-at-home orders as essential businesses, those too have felt the effects of an economy that has been put on hold.

NISCO has modified part of their production line to manufacture isolation gowns. Two additional Bremen manufacturers, TJ Snuggles and Creative Foam, combined efforts to manufacture mattresses that are being used by FEMA in temporary hospital facilities.

While most of the layoffs have come from the service sector of the economy with restaurants and retail



PHOTO COURTESY MCEDC

NISCO in Bremen manufactured isolation gowns that can be worn by first responders to protect from the coronavirus. Boxes of gowns were delivered to the Plymouth Fire Department and distributed throughout the county to first responders.

being forced to close, there have been some layoffs in manufacturing also.

Funds raised for this campaign will go to help provide food, housing, and utilities to people here in Marshall County and will be distributed through the Marshall County United Way.

Marshall County Crossroads is the team that brought the Stellar designation to Marshall County in 2019. MCEDC has been working with the Crossroads team to help raise awareness for the Fund the Essentials campaign and will be continuing to bring that message and awareness to the industry and manufacturing sector of Marshall County.

Marshall County is sitting in an enviable position to get through this economic downturn. The county has the advantage of the diverse industrial base. As the industrial base begins to recover from this forced closure, the money generated will begin to trickle back into the local economy through service, retail, and commer-

cial sectors. While these segments will not rebound as quickly as things were shut down, the diversity of the local industrial base will help to ensure that Marshall County will get through these unprecedented times together.

“We are fortunate to have the leadership of John Oliver of US Granules to spark the campaign and setting the mark for Pace Setter donations,” said Chavez. “Our industry leaders in Marshall County not only provide good jobs with good salaries, but often take it upon themselves to step up and take leadership roles in community initiatives such as Fund the Essentials campaign. We are fortunate to have the high caliber of industry operating and conducting business in Marshall County. The leadership and diversity of our industry working together with residents and public officials will be what leads Marshall County on a successful path forward from this COVID-19 pandemic.”

ALICE, cont. from front

who needed help. The stimulus check from the federal government was too little, too late for some families who were on maintenance medications that without insurance coverage cost several hundred dollars to refill.

The household survival budget for a single adult in 2016 for the ALICE threshold was \$20,064 annually with an hourly wage of \$10.03. For two adults with one infant and one preschooler, the annual household survival rate more than doubled due to an increased need for food, health care and childcare. The hourly wage for one person would need to rest at \$26.14 for one of the two partners to remain home to care for the children. Otherwise that \$26.14 an hour would have to be accommodated by a combination of two or more jobs.

Even the \$10.03 an hour amount for a single adult multiplied by two working adults with two dependent children at home preschool or younger would not sustain what has been determined as the “basic survival budget”.

With the cost of living continuing to increase, many families have found themselves in a sort of “wonderland” as they try to create an economically sound combination of work and life balance while trying to raise a family.

According to the 2018 United Way ALICE Report, 11% of families in Marshall County were living in federal poverty. That same report illustrated 29% of Marshall County families as living within or below the ALICE threshold.

Some locations were higher than others, with a total of 57% combined total of federal poverty and ALICE threshold families in Plymouth, the county seat.

Marshall County Community Foundation (MCCF) and Marshall County United Way (MCUW) Director Linda Yoder will be providing updated numbers when they become available.

After observing long lines of people waiting for food outside the Bread

of Life Food Pantry, John Oliver of U.S. Granules, along with his wife Sarah determined to make a difference in the lives of those impacted in Marshall County by the pandemic.

While some businesses and organizations were deemed essential and continued to run production, others implemented lay offs if they didn’t shut down entirely.

Oliver has beseeched those who have been fortunate economically during the shelter in place period to share their resources with those who are in need.

Several organizations and business owners have contributed donations to the “Funding the Essentials” campaign.

The funds will be distributed through the MCCF and MCUW to those families in need of assistance with food, housing or utility payments.

Recipients are not limited to those who are experiencing federal poverty, but also those ALICE families who simply could not afford to be without work for two, four, or six weeks.

As of Friday, Marshall County Crossroads reported a total of \$313,640 of the \$400,000 goal.

The ALICE Project began in 2009 at United Way of Northern New Jersey. California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana and Michigan have since joined the United Way ALICE Project.

“The grassroots movement hopes to stimulate a fresh, nonpartisan, national dialogue about the importance and fragility of this segment of the population. United Ways involved also plan to use the reports as the framework for their work in improving their residents’ lives and strengthening their communities.”

The 2018 United Way ALICE report for Indiana and Marshall County using data from 2010 to 2016 can be downloaded from marshallcountyuw.org.

The Rees will be highlighting 2020 graduates with their name in lights for a free will donation to the “Fund



IPHOTO PROVIDED

ALICE is an acronym that stands for Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed. Those individuals and households earn more than the federal poverty level but less than the “basic cost of living” for their county. This term is referred to by the United Way as the ALICE threshold to describe those families living “pay check to pay check”. A robust campaign started by John Oliver of U.S. Granules and his wife Sarah to raise \$400,000 for families impacted economically by the shelter in place restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has been joined by several other business owners and organization. The REES Theatre will be highlighting 2020 graduates with their name in lights for a free will donation to the “Fund the Essentials” campaign. Details about the event can be found in the article below.

the Essentials” campaign. May 22, May 23, May 29, and May 30 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. First come first serve. Rees marquee maestro Dennis Bottorff said, “Seniors who cannot afford to make a donation are still welcome to get their photo under the marquee. We want to honor all of our graduates, regardless of ability to

make a donation.”

Anyone who would like to sponsor a senior or seniors may also make a donation to the campaign. Please contact Bottorff at 574-261-1407 or send a messenger through Facebook @ The Rees to make arrangements for the donation so that it can be tallied with their outreach.

Ways to Give

Those willing to join the race may donate online at www.marshall-countycrossroads.com.

Text “FUNDESSENTIALS” to 443-21 to donate.


Mail a check (payable to Marshall County COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund) to Marshall County Philanthropy Center, P.O. Box 716, 2680 Miller Drive, Suite 120, Plymouth, Ind. 46563. Please note “Fund the Essentials” on the check.


100% of the funds will remain in Marshall County and support the Marshall County COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund which is administered by the United Way of Marshall County and the Marshall County Community Foundation

Culver

GRADUATION

Greetings





Parents, Grandparents & family of Culver & CMA 2020 Seniors,


The Culver Citizen will be publishing special graduation pages on May 28 for Culver graduates.

If you would like to wish your special graduate congratulations, call Angi or Stephanie at 574-936-3101 or email arodriguez@thepilotnews.com


2col. x2” ads - \$20

2 col. x4” ads - \$35


Deadline: May 22 at noon




Pilot News




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